

Sierra Nevada Children's Services

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Community

Families



Early Educators

A Partnership Project Publication Connecting

Families, Early Educators and Community

Full Circle

In the holiday spirit, here is a little teaching story for kids about how generosity starts with ourselves.

The Queen's Journey

A young Queen was given a special present from a great wizard. It was a magic chest which would bring happiness to the whole kingdom whenever it was opened in a place where there was a spirit of generosity.

The Queen traveled all over her kingdom, looking for the most generous people. When she had collected them all, she opened the magic chest. However, nothing whatsoever happened.

That was, until one day when, returning to her castle, the Queen saw a poor little boy begging. The Queen would have given the boy some money, but she didn't have any with her. So the boy asked her if she could give him the old chest she had, so he could sell it for a little money, in town. At first the Queen hesitated, because she had been told the chest was magic. But on seeing how poor the boy was, she gave it to him. The boy took the chest and opened it.

Immediately, all the most wonderful things one could imagine started flying out of the chest, accompanied by the sound of singing: "Why look for it in others? Goodness always starts in yourself", went the song.

And as well as enjoying all the wonders of the magic chest, the Queen learned to set an example in virtue, and she became the best Queen ever to reign over that kingdom.



BEST WISHES FROM THE SNCS FAMILY

Cori, William, Charlene, Jackie, Marilyn, Jeaneen, Cindy, Gail, Kristina, Patricia, Katie, Kelly, Ada, Sharon, Marion, Aurora, Judy, Sherry, Jessica and Katherine.

SIERRA NEVADA CHILDREN'S SERVICES – Annual Provider Breakfast

In previous years, the annual provider breakfast was held in Truckee and Grass Valley. This year we have moved the event to spring. The 2011 date has not yet been set, but once the location and date are reserved, flyers will be distributed to the SNCS Provider Community.

Contents

- SNICS Picks
- Subsidy Updates
- Workshops & Activities
- Local News from SNCS
- Procedure Change - Attendance Sheets
- Hikes with Tykes
- Activity Pages





A TREASURY OF CHRISTMAS TALES

Contributing writer Carolyn Quattrochi

This beautifully bound and illustrated book contains 19 favorite Christmas classics, including: A Christmas Carol, The Little Match Girl, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, The Elves and the Shoemaker, The Little Drummer Boy, The Littlest Angel, and Rudolph's Adventure. It is a perfect "story a day" book to get families into the holiday spirit.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE!

By Arlene Erlbach with Herb Erlbach

To Christians all over the world, December 25th is an important day. It's Christmas, the anniversary of Jesus Christ's birth. Christmas is observed by more than a billion people in more than 100 countries around the world. Not everyone celebrates Christmas the same way. In this book you will discover many Christmas traditions. You'll read about activities you can add to your own celebration. You can share these customs with your family and friends to honor the most widely celebrated holiday in the world.

SNICS Picks

IMANI'S GIFT AT KWANZAA - By Denise Burden-Patmon

"Grandma braided Imani's hair. Imani loved the braiding times. They were special times she and M'dear shared. They were times of talking and times of listening." On this day they were talking about Kwanzaa. This is a sweet story, beautifully illustrated, about family, community, and sharing. It is also very helpful for anyone who wants to learn about Kwanzaa. It tells what happens during the week of Kwanzaa and includes a glossary of the Swahili words used in the celebration.

HERSHEL AND THE HANUKKAH GOBLINS - By Eric Kimmel

On the first night of Hanukkah, Hershel of Ostropol was walking down the road. He was tired and hungry, but he was looking forward to reaching the village where he knew there would be bright candles, merry songs, and platters piled high with tasty potato Latkes.

When he arrived, the village was silent and dark. Not a single Hanukkah candle could be seen. What could be wrong? The villagers told him that goblins had taken over the old synagogue on the hill. They hate Hanukkah and do not allow the villagers to celebrate it.

Hershel knew he must help the people, so he made a plan to get rid of the goblins and bring Hanukkah back to the village. Can he do it? You will have to read the book to find out.

OTHER HOLIDAY BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE SNCS LIBRARY ARE:

- Babar and Father Christmas** - By Jean De Brunhoff
- Baboushka and the Three Kings** - By Ruth Robbins
- Latkes and Applesauce - A Hanukkah Story** - By Fran Manushkin
- Off to Bethlehem!** - By Dandi Daley Mackall
- The Polar Express** - By Chris Van Allsburg
- One Yellow Daffodil - A Hanukkah Story** - By David A. Adler
- The Christmas Dolls** (a chapter book) - By Carol Beach York
- The Legend of the Candy Cane** - By Lori Walburg
- The Littlest Christmas Tree** - By Janie Jasin
- D is for Dreidel - A Hanukkah Alphabet Book** - By Tanya Lee Stone
- Christmas Eve on Sesame Street** - Created by Jon Stone
- A Snowman Named Just Bob** - By Mark Kimball Moulton
- Christmas Songs** (a pop-up songbook) - Traditional Christmas Songs



Subsidy and Resource and Referral Updates

WHAT STATE BUDGET CHANGES MIGHT AFFECT FAMILIES AND EARLY EDUCATORS?

CalWORKs Stage 3: On October 8, 2010, the Governor eliminated funding for the CalWORKS Stage 3 child care program. Stage 3 services will terminate on December 31, 2010. Sierra Nevada Children's Services will continue to assist all Stage 3 families with identifying child care options. SNCS currently has funding to continue services for Stage 3 families under our Alternative Payment Program. Therefore, effective December 1, 2010, these families will continue services under the Alternative Payment program and can utilize the same provider with no interruption in services. Also, families in Stage 2 who are transferring to Stage 3 effective December 1, 2010, will also be provided services under the Alternative Payment program. Future transfers will be dependent on available funding. Please refer to our website at www.sncs.org for the most up to date news.

License Exempt Care: The Budget Act of 2010 reduced the Regional Market Rate ceilings from 90 percent to 80 percent of the family child care home Regional Market Rate ceilings. The California Department of Education (CDE) has determined the new ceilings by county and has published them at the CDE website: www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/cd/ap/index.aspx.

ARE YOU MISSING AN ATTENDANCE SHEET?

SNCS mails attendance sheets monthly with your reimbursement check. Therefore, you should receive attendance sheets prior to each service month that a family is approved for child care services. Due to recertifications, schedule end dates, and a few other reasons an attendance sheet may not be generated. It is important that you contact a Family Support Specialist immediately to find out why you did not receive an attendance sheet, and to ensure that the family is still receiving services before the start of the month. If you have been advised by the Family Support Specialist that the child is approved for services please print a generic attendance sheet from our website www.sncs.org/providers/programs.html and attach it to the pre-printed one once you receive it. It is important to follow these guidelines, as *California Code of Regulations, Title 5* requires parents/guardians or any other individual authorized to pick up or drop off the child to sign in and out on a daily basis. Any early educator that contacts SNCS for an attendance sheet after the month services are rendered may receive delayed reimbursement.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO COMPLETE THE BILLING SECTION ON ATTENDANCE SHEETS?

This is another reminder to complete your request for reimbursement when submitting attendance sheets. Please remember the following when billing:

- ✓ Use the reverse side of the attendance sheet to show your billing (do not use the bottom)
- ✓ Complete billing according to your rates, not what you think SNCS will reimburse
- ✓ Your billing should reflect the same amount you would charge an unsubsidized family

By completing the billing section you are helping the SNCS team that processes reimbursements. There is less confusion, less opportunity for error, and greater consistency when the billing section is completed.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Limited Term Service Leave (LTSL): SNCS has clarified the criteria for authorizing Limited Term Service Leave. LTSL may be granted to families currently enrolled in subsidized child care for the following reasons: school break, child's visit with a non-custodial parent, medical leave, and family leave.

Job Search: SNCS has also revised the criteria for authorization of job search. Job search may be authorized for parents of school age children to use job search outside of school hours.

To view these changes in the most current version of the *Parent & Provider Guide* please visit www.sncs.org.





SNCS Workshops & Activities

DECEMBER 2010

Date/Time	Location	Title	Description/Comments
EVERY THURSDAY 10:00-11:30 a.m.	SNCS Grass Valley	Tots and Twos	Free, fun activities for children, families, and educators to learn more about how children develop and learn. For more information and to reserve a spot please call: 530.272.8866 - Jeaneen
Monday, Dec 6th Deadline: 5:00 p.m.	SNCS	Subsidy Attendance Sheets DUE	Subsidy Attendance Sheets for November, 2010 due at SNCS no later than 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec 7th 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	SNCS Grass Valley	Partnership Project Workshop #3	Creating Environments That Support Children's Growth and Development in Your Program
Thursday, Dec 9th 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	SNCS Grass Valley	Creative Connections	Network Meeting. Discover creative new ways to connect and build relationships with the families in your program and bring any ideas that you would like to share.
Tuesday, Dec 14 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	SNCS Grass Valley	Social Emotional Competencies Workshop #3	Developing strategies to help children develop strong social emotional skills and strong trusting relationships.

JANUARY 2011

Date/Time	Location	Title	Description/Comments
EVERY THURSDAY 10:00-11:30 am	SNCS Grass Valley	Tots and Twos	Free, fun activities for children, families, and educators to learn more about how children develop and learn. For more information and to reserve a spot please call: 530.272.8866 - Jeaneen
Wednesday, Jan 5th Deadline – 5:00 pm	SNCS	Subsidy Attendance Sheets DUE	Subsidy Attendance Sheets for December, 2010 due at SNCS no later than 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan 11th 6:30– 8:30 p.m.	SNCS Grass Valley	Maximizing Your Marketing	It's a tough market out there. Developing a strong marketing plan is an essential part of sound business practices. Learn what you can do to keep ahead of the game.

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL TRAININGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING NETWORK MEETINGS.
PLEASE CALL ADA AT 272.8866 EXT. 221 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.**



Local News From SNCS



GRASS VALLEY

Once again, the seasons have turned and the holidays are already upon us. With decorations to be hung, presents to be bought and activities to be planned, it's easy to get a little overwhelmed by all the things that need to be done. It's no wonder some of us can get stressed out. The trick to keeping the holidays pleasurable is finding that balance between fun and frantic. Try to keep things simpler, take a little time to relax and truly enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends! We'll be starting the new year off with a couple of classes for our early educators designed to help sharpen business skills. Look in the current calendar of events for our *Maximizing your Marketing class on January 11th* and then, make sure to mark your calendars' for *February 17th*, for our annual *Child Care Tax class*- more information to follow in the next newsletter.

SIERRA COUNTY

- December 8 and 15, 2010: Social Emotional Series

TRUCKEE

December 2, 2010 (all events below)

- Village-at-Northstar 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Noel Nights, enjoy s'mores by the fire, ice skating, hot cocoa, carolers and Santa photos;
- Truckee Historic Train Depot: Tree lighting ceremony @ 5:30 pm: Cider, cookies and carolers
- Christmas Tree decorating: Local elementary school students will be decorating trees throughout downtown.

PROCEDURAL CHANGE – SNCS HAS UPDATED THE ABSENCE PROCEDURE AS FOLLOWS:

Enrolled parents and child care providers are responsible for indicating **actual** attendance on the Attendance Sheet **on a daily basis**. Child care providers and parents confirm attendance by signing their full signatures on each line and at the bottom of the Attendance Sheet. Parents may choose to designate another eligible adult to sign the child in or out of child care.

Every day of the approved child care schedule must be accounted for on the Attendance Sheet. Payment will be made for approved days and hours of child care and excused absences, if it is the usual and customary policy of the licensed child care provider to charge for such absences. "Attendance" for the purposes of reimbursement, includes **excused absences** by children due to:

1. Illness or quarantine of the child
2. Illness or quarantine of the parent
3. Medical appointments for child/parent - verification of illness from a medical practitioner may be required
4. Court ordered visitation
5. Family emergency: **limited to 10 days per fiscal year**
 - Immediate need for treatment of anyone (other than the child in care) in the family by a physician/dentist
 - Death of a family member; funeral or memorial service
 - Any catastrophic event such as theft, fire, flood, weather, car trouble, impassable roads
 - IEP (if child required to be present)
6. **The first ten (10) medically unrelated absences** per fiscal year that are in the **best interest** of the child: vacation time with family, visiting relatives, non-court ordered time spent with non-custodial parent.
7. **The first ten (10) closure days per fiscal year** (7/1 – 6/30) chosen and documented by the licensed provider

Unexcused absences include any absence that is not listed above and are limited to 10 days per fiscal year. Unexcused absences in excess of ten (10) days per fiscal year may be grounds for termination of services.

These absences pertain only to licensed providers. License exempt providers will be reimbursed for actual attendance only.

It is the Provider's responsibility to call a family's Support Specialist if the child is absent for an unexcused reason from care for 3 consecutive contracted/scheduled days or with no notice from the parent, or if the parent is not using her/his approved scheduled care.

HIKES WITH TYKES

Charlene Kreeger

With this wonderful Autumn weather lingering indefinitely, it beckons us to savor every last hour of the day enjoying the out-of-doors. Many families have formed trekking groups; “Hikes with Tykes”, to get out into the open air during the week and for Dads who cannot participate during the week, weekend events have become part of their schedules. Each week, the group selects a fairly easy trail or urban route that is suited to 1-3 mile hike. There is no set decision on the turn around moment, the children set the pace. Infants and Toddlers accompany in strollers or child-carrier backpacks. And there’s an added benefit, too. Satiated with fresh air, children often sleep better afterwards.



The Mountaineers Books recently published book, “Babes in the Woods,” authored by Alaskan Jennifer Aist, is packed with tips on taking babies hiking, camping and boating.

A 1997 study of Norwegian and Swedish preschoolers, which spent a year comparing children who played on flat playgrounds versus those in natural settings with uneven ground. The latter tested higher for motor fitness, particularly balance and agility.

Today’s parents tend to incorporate parenting into their regular lives rather than put aside their favorite activities to stay home with the wee ones. So, get out and enjoy, don’t let winter stop you, just bundle everyone up.

GROWING LEARNING AND CARING PROJECT-GLC

If you are a relative, friend, neighbor or nanny caring for children other than your own, you can be a part of our Growing, Learning and Caring Project. This free program, for informal or license exempt providers, offers support and resources to participants.

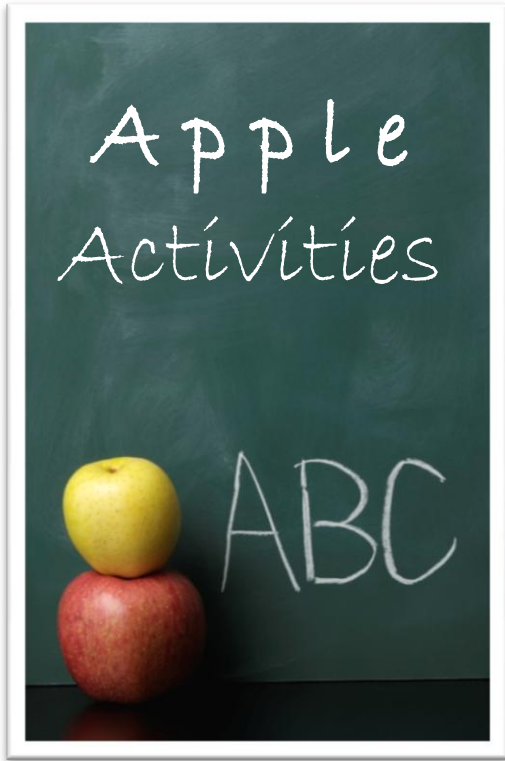
CHILD CARE INITIATIVE PROJECT-CCIP

For individuals who want to start a family childcare and for those who already work in family childcare, we have a program for you too. The Child Care Initiative Project provides free training, support, resources and incentives to program participants.

FOR INFORMATION ON EITHER PROGRAM CONTACT:

Ada Miyakawa at (530) 272-8866 x 221 in Nevada County or Charlene Kreeger at (530) 993-1288 in Sierra County





SCIENCE: OXIDATION

Cut and core an apple. Then cut the apple into several sections. Dip half of the apple sections in lemon juice. Place the lemon dipped apple sections on one plate and place the 'plain' sections on another plate.

Watch what happens to each plate of apples. The lemon juice coating keeps oxygen from the apples and the coated sections will discolor less rapidly.

ART: APPLE PRINTING

Celebrate the fall season with an apple design. You can even make the painting into a place mat by covering it with contact paper!

You will need: apples, a knife, paper, paint, and some paper plates.

1. Using the knife, cut the apple in half vertically—this gives the best 'apple' shape - cutting it horizontally gives you a circular shape.
2. Pour several different colors of paint onto individual paper plates. Dip the apple into the paint and then stamp the painted apple on the paper to create a fun fall masterpiece.

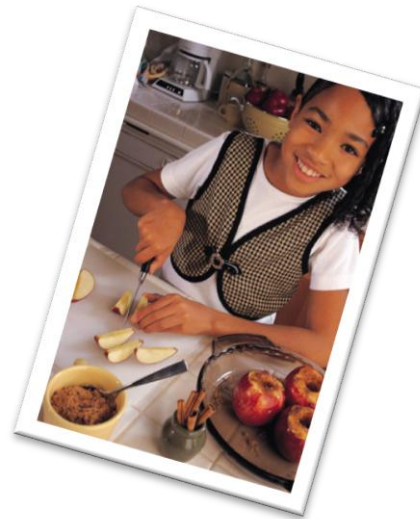
COOKING: HOMEMADE APPLESAUCE

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 8 apples
- ½ teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1-2 tablespoons of sugar (*optional*)
- table knives and cutting board
- measuring spoon
- lemon squeezer
- crock pot
- potato masher
- spoon for stirring and large bowl

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Peel, cut, and remove the seeds from the apples. Cut each apple into six pieces.
2. Put the apples pieces, ½ teaspoon lemon juice and the cinnamon stick in the crock pot and stir.
3. Cover and cook on low for 4 to 6 hours.
4. When the apples are cooked, pour them into a large bowl and remove the cinnamon stick.
5. Mash the apples with a potato masher until they reach the consistency you want.
6. You can add 1-2 tablespoons of sugar if you like.





C O O K I N G

BAKED STUFFED PUMPKIN

Prep Time: 30 min.

Cook Time: 1 hr.

Ready for eating: 1hr 30min.

WITH KIDS

This recipe is wonderful as a side dish, and it is very impressive when you bring the whole pumpkin to the table. May be served spooned over pound cake or pumpkin bread, and garnished with whipped cream.

Ingredients

- *1 medium sugar pumpkin
- *6 Granny Smith apples-peeled, cored and chopped
- *1 cup chopped walnuts
- *1 can (16oz) whole berry cranberry sauce
- *1 can (20 oz) can pineapple chunks, drained
- *3/4 cups brown sugar
- *1/2 cup golden raisins
- *2 tsps. fresh minced ginger root
- *1 tbsp. grated nutmeg
- *1 tbsp. ground cinnamon



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Position rack in middle of oven.
2. Cut top off pumpkin, set aside. Scoop out seeds with metal spoon.
3. In a large bowl, stir together, apples, walnuts, cranberry sauce, pineapple, brown sugar, and raisins. Season with ginger, nutmeg and cinnamon. Mix well. Spoon mixture into cleaned pumpkin, and replace top.
4. Set pumpkin directly on a baking sheet or stone. Bake for one hour, or until pumpkin begins to soften. Remove from heat, stir, scraping sides gently, so that pumpkin pieces can be incorporated into apple mixture.

PINE CONE CHRISTMAS TREE

An easy –to-make pine cone Christmas Tree. Use it as a Christmas decoration or as a tree ornament. This is a simple craft that even young children can help make.

Materials: for each Pine Cone Christmas Tree you will need:

- a large, open pine cone (pick one that is tree-shaped and stands upright easily)
- glitter
- a few cotton balls
- white glue (like Elmer’s)
- dental floss and a needle
- small beads
- a small bow or star to top off your little tree

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Instructions:

1. Glue a few cotton balls to the bottom of the pine cone. These look like snow and help the “tree” stand upright.
2. Put a little dab of glue at the tips of the pine cone and then sprinkle on glitter.
3. String some small beads onto dental floss (about 1 to 1 ½ feet or more, depending on the size of the pine cone). To string beads easily, tie one bead securely to the string – then give to the child for stringing, older children can use a needle to help with the stringing. When the stringing is done, tie off the last bead with a knot. Wrap the beads around the pine cone and glue them to the tree.
4. Top off your tree with a small bow or other decoration.



Sierra Nevada
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Go Green!

The greenest paper is no paper at all!
The more you do online, the less you need paper.

Would you like to help us go green?

This publication "Full Circle" is available on our website,
along with other valuable publications, forms, and updates.

If you prefer to utilize this "green option" please call
272.8866 ext. 222 or e-mail katherinec@sncs.org

We're on the Web!

www.sncs.org

investing in our community, one family at a time.



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